

Dominica: After Hurricane

By James E. Smith

I sat in on an early morning prayer meeting with the missionaries on the island of Dominica, a week or two ago. We were in the Don Snell home, and one missionary prayed, "I thank you, Lord, for the opportunities for ministry which have been made available to us because of the hurricane." It is this type of spirit and dedication which causes our missionaries to be so effective around the world.

I know these missionaries in Dominica, and I know what they have been through during and since Hurricane David. I admired their courage as they showed me their destroyed houses, the beds they were under, the

closets they were in, or the washing machines they took shelter behind as they endured the six hours of Hurricane David. I could not even imagine what it must have been like to have winds of 175 miles per hour blow your house apart while you and your family were in it. Mission Chairman Don Snell told me that as he lay under a bed in several inches of water and saw the roof and ceilings blown away, he never expected to see his family again.

Many of their hours have been spent since the hurricane in just personal survival and the repairing of what few things they could salvage. Yet, these were the ones who were thankful to God for the opportunity of ministry to

others in the aftermath of the destructive hurricane.

My attention was first drawn to Dominica as I listened to the national ham radio operator who was describing the approaching hurricane. Then, he went off the air, and there was silence from the island for several hours. Finally a weak signal from the island was heard as he operated off the battery from his truck, describing the total destruction all around him.

Several days later, after hearing several appeals for a ham radio operator to come to the island, and after hearing from the Foreign Mission Board about the difficulty of communicating with the missionaries,

I flew to Dominica with my bags, a portable radio and antenna, gasoline generator, camera equipment, food and sleeping gear. Dick Stafford, a layman from the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Greenwood, traveled with me.

We found the destruction in Dominica much more than we had realized. The destruction to the crops, which is their only source of income, was 100%. Houses were 80 to 85% destroyed. The national people seemed to be going about in a daze with no place to go and not really knowing what to do.

Our emergency radio was set up (Continued on page 3)



DOMINICA — The Baptist church in Boetia continues to worship after the hurricane in the front yard of the missionary residence. The church had previously been meeting in a rented house which was destroyed. The tents in the background belong to a group of volunteer laymen building houses in the village.

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Prayer, Witness Training Cited For Baptismal Rise

By Dan Martin

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention evangelism leaders, pleased with preliminary reports of increased baptisms during 1979, sought to find ways to continue the up-trend.

The leaders, in their annual meeting, heard projections which indicate a 9.7 percent increase in baptisms in the 1978-79 church year.

The increases come after three years' decline in baptisms, long regarded the measure of evangelism efficiency among Southern Baptists. During the past two years, Southern Baptists have recorded the lowest baptismal figures in more than a quarter of a century, dropping to 336,050 in 1978.

"The projections indicate at least 368,646 baptisms during 1979," said C. B. Hogue, director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "We properly praise God for

that. The increase may be the turnaround we have prayed for."

As evangelism leaders responded to the projections, Roy Collum, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said: "I believe Southern Baptists were genuinely shocked at the decline in baptisms, particularly the decline last year. The decline got people to praying, and I think that's the number one reason for the increase this year."

Joe Ford, director of evangelism development for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, noted he believes the denomination "has felt the rekindling of the spirit of urgency. It comes from current events, and I think God is speaking to us to be urgent in our task."

"I also believe there has been a better delineation of goals through Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC plan to communicate the message of Christ to the world in this century). When an organization adopts a goal, it has a better chance of hitting it. We have a tendency to hit what we are shooting at when we aim. The goals are helping us to aim better."

Dan Sanchez, who heads the evangelism emphasis for the Baptist Convention of New York, said, "I think it's always encouraging to see an increase in baptisms. It shows that things are being done right, but I also believe a decline in baptisms is not a cause for alarm. There have always been times of sowing, planting, cultivating and reaping. If we're doing these things, then the statistics will

take care of themselves.

"I'm pleasantly surprised that Southern Baptists have had a significant turnaround. . . . Two years ago the trend was discovered, and last year it was confirmed. This year we made a turnaround. It's amazing that it has happened in two years. I don't know of any other denomination that has accomplished this — discovering and reversing a downward trend so significantly," he added.

Several of the evangelism directors traced reasons for the increase to emphasis on ongoing programs of evangelism.

"Basically, the increase can be traced to increased lay evangelism training, simultaneous revival, and motivating pastors to put evangelism as their number one priority," said

Don Harms, evangelism director for the Northern Plains Convention.

Harms explained that in North Dakota, one of the four states in the Northern Plains Convention, much of the increase can be attributed to simultaneous revivals in April of 1979. "More people were saved in those revivals than had been baptized in North Dakota during the entire past year. When you get the churches involved in simultaneous revival, you always have an upsurge in baptisms."

Hogue said he believes renewed emphasis on doctrinal studies also has had an impact. "The church training on the study of 'The Doctrine of Salvation' has had a significant impact on the increase in baptisms," he said. Hogue wrote a study course book. (Continued on Page 2)

Annie Armstrong Gifts Edge Over \$14 Million

ATLANTA (BP) — The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions has edged over the \$14 million mark, William G. Tanner told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board at their December meeting.

Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board, said contributions to the offering had reached

\$14,063,896, making it the largest home missions offering ever received.

"The total represents an increase of 15.33 percent over last year, and is nearly 94 percent of the goal of \$15 million," Tanner said.

He noted that while he does not expect the offering to reach its \$15 million goal, he believes the offering will reach \$14.1 million by the time books close Dec. 31.

Foundation Work Has Basis In Biblically Sound Theology

By Harold Kitchings

Executive Secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Southern Baptists have from their beginning contended that every action produced must be initiated and motivated by the teaching of God's Word.

Thus, every institution, commission, or agency of the Southern Baptist Convention must find its reason for being based on a fundamental truth espoused in the Scriptures. Mississippi Baptists adhere to this same principle.

Therefore, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, incorporated in 1943 with assets of some \$13,000, was created with a deep conviction that Jesus meant it when He said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for your-

selves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." (Matthew 6:19-20)

This agency of our Convention affords each Mississippi Baptist the opportunity to allow the trail of his influence (John 14:13) to continue to work for the cause of Christ long after he or she has entered into the presence of the Living Lord.

One may achieve this objective by the creation of a living trust agreement (while the individual is still alive and can see how the gift is serving the

(Continued on Page 2)

Miss Rodgers To Lead Adult Seminar

The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School department is sponsoring an Adult Leadership Seminar, February 1, 1980, at the First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

This seminar is designed for all who work with adults in the Sunday School organization. This includes staff members, division coordinators, department directors and department outreach leaders, class teachers and class officers.

The keynote speaker will be Miss Hazel Rodgers, adult Sunday School consultant for the Texas Sunday School department. Prior to coming to the Texas Baptist Convention, Miss Rodgers was for 16 years an adult consultant with the Sunday School Board in Nashville. She was born and reared in Yazoo City. Her education was completed at Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

The conference for adult department directors, division directors and staff members will be led by James Rennell, director of church services for the Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptist Fellowship and a former adult consultant in Kentucky.

Beau Colle of the Louisiana Baptist Sunday School Department will also lead the conference for adult class officers: outreach leaders, group leaders, and secretaries.

Miss Rodgers will conduct the conference for teachers of adults.

This Adult Seminar will begin with a banquet at 6 p.m. and conclude before 10 p.m. The reservations for the banquet meal will be made through the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Musicians Sought For Missions Work

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The importance of music to most Southern Baptist churches is the basis for a challenge to state church music secretaries to involve more musicians in volunteer missions efforts.

Don Hammonds, director of special mission ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the group, meeting in Nashville, that the primary thrust is for volunteer musicians to spend time in new work areas on vacations, missions trips or during revival time. While there, the musicians will sing and train persons responsible for the local church music program.

Some of the music secretaries from areas where Southern Baptist work is new said youth choir tours which are a series of one-night performances across the country do not meet the needs of training local musicians. The large groups with elaborate musical equipment often have more members than the churches where they perform and tend to overwhelm local congregations.

The need is for adult and youth groups, families or individuals who will spend a few days in a location conducting workshops, leading Bible study activities and assisting local church members in plans for ongoing music programs.

Music secretaries representing new work areas agreed that capable people are available in local churches, but they need to be trained to be effective. Donations of discarded equipment and outdated materials do not help, they

said. Good equipment and current materials, however, are always welcome and appreciated.

Last year, 691 youth groups and 165

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Southern Baptist Woman To Be Olympic Chaplain

By Teresa Sanders

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Barbara McElhane's "flock" is a group of world-renowned athletes and her "parish" the cold, snowy Adirondacks of upstate New York.

The second-year religious education student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is among the 14 chaplains selected for the 13th Winter Olympics in February at Lake Placid, N.Y.

One of three women, she is the only Southern Baptist to serve in a group that is to include a specialist in Eastern religions, a rabbi, Episcopalian, Lutheran and Methodist, Eastern Orthodox and Catholic.

The chaplaincy program is one of six major areas of concern of a Religious Affairs Committee, the first such committee in modern Olympic history. Three other Southern Baptists

are on that board, including David Book, pastor of the Baptist Chapel in Lake Placid; Ken Prickett, Home Mission Board field representative; and Bracey Campbell, managing editor of the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

Other featured speakers will be Sarah Frances Anders, chairperson, Department of Sociology, Louisiana College; Harry Hollis, associate executive secretary, Christian Life

Commission, SBC; Marjorie Rowden Kelly, former missionary to Israel, former vice-president, William Carey College, wife of Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Martha Nelson, homemaker, author, lecturer and conference leader.

According to James Travis, chairman of the program committee of the commission, the purpose of the sessions will be to explore biblical teaching as to woman's place in the church and the best use of her gifts. "Each of the program participants has written or is currently writing in the field of study," Travis said.

The seminar will begin after noon on Monday and conclude Tuesday after-

noon. There will be no registration fee and interested pastors and other church leaders are invited to participate. Women of the churches are urged to attend.

Frank and Evelyn Stagg, co-authors of *Jesus and Women*, will lead three discussion periods on the program "Women In The Church" to be conducted February 25 and 26 at the Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson.

Other featured speakers will be Sarah Frances Anders, chairperson, Department of Sociology, Louisiana College; Harry Hollis, associate executive secretary, Christian Life

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Frank and Evelyn Stagg

Sunday School Birthday Party Is Planned May 22

By Bryant Cummings, Director, Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department

All Mississippians are invited to attend a state-wide birthday recognition of the 200th Anniversary of Sunday School work in the United States and other countries around the world on Thursday, May 22, 1980 at the Jackson City Auditorium beginning at 6:45 p.m.

This special anniversary meeting will be called the "RAIKES AND FLAKE COMMEMORATION" and will be directed by the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department.

Robert Raikes will be recognized for his early 1780 beginnings in teaching Scripture to children and providing an open Bible for them to read. Sunday

School gave the Bible to the masses. Arthur Flake, a salesman, moved to Winona in September 1894. Flake became a Christian at age 31 in Meridian. He served as Sunday School superintendent in Winona from 1896 until 1909.

During a 1902 state convention in Water Valley, Flake was responsible for initiating the plan to provide for Landrum P. Leavell, a professor from Oxford, to become the first Sunday School secretary of Mississippi.

Flake later went to the Sunday School Board in Nashville in April 1909 as Convention-wide Sunday School Field Secretary. In 1920 he was asked to organize and establish the Sunday School Board.

For 17 years Flake served as Editor (Continued on Page 2)

"...Never Seen Human Beings In Such Terrible Conditions"

By Maxine Stewart
KAM PUT, Thailand (BP) — Malnutrition beyond imagination. Living conditions worse than any seen before.

These are some of the impressions of trained, seasoned doctors and a nurse, members of the first medical team sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work with the recent wave of Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

The team, organized at the request of Thailand's prime minister and the Thailand Baptist Mission, arrived in Bangkok Nov. 8. In orientation the next day, they heard about the refugees' conditions, available medications and Thai cultural taboos during a morning lecture. That afternoon they went to work with the refugees at the camp at Sa Kaew.

These dedicated medical people thought they were prepared for what they would see. But they weren't.

About 35,000 refugees live at the Sa Kaew camp under multicolor sheets of plastic on bamboo poles. The whole camp is surrounded by barbed wire. Flies are everywhere. Sanitation facilities are primitive.

"Overwhelming"

"The whole thing is really overwhelming," said Robert J. Adams, family practice resident at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Gadsden, Ala. "It looks like it was staged for a movie. I have never seen human beings alive in such terrible conditions. I couldn't believe people could live like that."

Daniel E. Thor, medical director for the team, physician and professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, said he had never seen that many people so critically ill. "There are very, very few of them who are not starved. That's the

most severe kind of malnutrition," he said.

Sa Kaew served only as an orientation camp for the team. When representatives of the various volunteer agencies met to decide where each group should concentrate efforts, the Baptist medical team was asked to work at the already established Kam Put camp, farther to the southeast.

Shortly after they arrived at Kam Put, where the International Red Cross already had established a hospital, a wave of refugees crossed into Thailand, fleeing Vietnamese forces. Besides dealing with malnutrition and resulting diseases, the team, which set up in the border village of Ban Laem, also treated war wounds.

Although some of the refugees weren't sure who they could trust, others were eager for help.

"Some of them were willing to receive vitamin and iron injections right there," said William B. Rasberry, obstetrician and gynecologist from Bryan, Tex. "Although not as much as the refugees at Sa Kaew, the people were malnourished and quite anemic. Many had malaria. Some had filled their little bamboo water containers to boil their rice from a small creek of stagnant water nearby."

"Some who said they had been fighting looked like they were nine or ten years old, but I learned they were 15. They just stared off into space, hardly noticing the surroundings," Rasberry continued.

The team established an outpatient clinic in Ban Laem and began what was to become a daily routine of treating starvation, anemia, malaria, respiratory diseases, dysentery, leprosy, cholera and tuberculosis. The sickest were sent to the Red Cross Hospital at Kam Put.

The team members' first day at the border exposed them to one of the saddest situations the refugees have to face. Two Thai soldiers came rushing into the camp carrying a bamboo pole hammock with a tiny little knot wrapped in a blanket. The "knot" was an emaciated little girl they had found all alone in the forest.

Because mothers cannot run well while carrying babies or small children and because their crying alerts the enemy to the group's location, many babies are left behind or killed.

This little girl was rushed to the Red Cross Hospital after Rasberry located a vein to start her on intravenous feedings. The next morning, on their way to the border, the team stopped by the hospital to check on her. She was sitting up in bed, eating. She is one of the lucky ones.

The first team was to arrive back in the states Dec. 19. Another medical team, organized by Harold E. Hurst and consisting of seven physicians and four nurses, is scheduled to leave for Thailand Jan. 6 for a six-week stay. Hurst is the Foreign Mission Board's associate consultant for health care ministries.

William Reynolds Takes Early Retirement At 59

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — William J. Reynolds, 59, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department since 1971, has announced his early retirement effective April 30, 1980.

Changing philosophies and administrative conflicts were cited as reasons for Reynolds' retirement.



Hamilton Receives Award

Ed Hamilton of Jackson received the 1979 Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Mississippi State University Alumni Fellowship. The plaque was presented by June Scoggins, associate director of the BSU at MSU. Hamilton served as BSU president, summer missionary to Liberia, and interim director of the BSU. He was one of the founders of the alumni organization. Engaged in private business in Jackson, Hamilton is chairman of deacons at Broadmoor Baptist Church.

Good News Bible For Children Awarded To Art Contest Winner

NEW YORK CITY — The first copy of the Good News Bible For Children in Today's English Version has been awarded to the winner of the

American Bible Society's "Scripture Pictures" art contest at a ceremony in New York City.

Fourteen-year-old Patty Jo Conway of Locust Grove, Va., was presented the Bible as a special extra prize for winning first place in the nationwide contest. The Good News Bible For Children, scheduled for publication in early 1980, has been designed especially for young people.

This version of the Bible has 57 full pages of new full-color illustrations. It also contains the line drawings by Swiss artist Annie Vallotton, whose work is familiar to readers of the Good News Bible. Many of these drawings have been color-tinted for this fresh, innovative Bible.

"Dr. Reynolds has led Southern Baptists well for many years in the field of church music," said Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board. "He is an extraordinarily gifted musician and a man of the highest moral character."

Reynolds said his plans include continued involvement "in the activities of my profession — as a composer, writer, congregational song and worship leader, music consultant and choral clinician."

"Among the immediate tasks at hand will be the completion of plans for the music at the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June and the Baptist World Alliance in Toronto in July," Reynolds said.

Reynolds joined the church music department in 1955 and served as music editor and supervisor of music publications before assuming leadership of Southern Baptists' program of church music.

He was general editor and chairman of the hymnal committee for the 1975 edition of the "Baptist Hymnal," which to date has sold more than 3.3 million copies.

Reynolds is the author of "Christ and the Carols," "Hymns of Our Faith," "Congregational Singing" and "Companion to the Baptist Hymnal." He is co-author of "A Joyful Sound: Christian Hymnody," a textbook on hymnody.

Reynolds has composed many sacred choral works, gospel songs and hymns.

Martinique — Southern Baptist missionaries on this Caribbean island have opened their first Baptist Center, a rented facility which will have mission station offices, a book deposit and a place where Good Shepherd Baptist Church can meet. The church was begun a year ago in the living room of Robert and Carol Shehane, the first Southern Baptist missionaries in Martinique. There are three members and an average attendance of 25. Sixty-five persons were present for the center's inauguration ceremonies.

Seminary Evacuation Mars News Of Rhodesian Peace

By Mary Jane Welch
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — While welcoming news that a cease-fire promises to open rural areas of Rhodesia to missionaries, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board received news that the seminary campus near Gwelo has been evacuated.

Davis L. Saunders, secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, received a telegram sent Dec. 17, the same day as the peace agreement was initiated by the Patriotic Front, saying simply that the seminary campus had been evacuated and that all personnel were safe.

News reports indicated that guerrilla agreement cleared the way for a formal signing Dec. 19 of a cease fire, ending the seven-year war in the country. Patriotic Front forces have been fighting, first the minority government of Ian Smith and later the black majority government of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, for control of the country.

The cease fire has the effect of returning the country to British colonial status temporarily. Rhodesia had recently changed its name to Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. It will return to its original name at least temporarily.

Southern Baptist missionaries had already moved seminary classes from the campus, located several miles from town, into Gwelo, but students continued living in dormitories on campus. Since the evacuation occurred during a school holiday only a few students, the vice principal, the pastor of the seminary church and the superintendent of the nearby Baptist camp would have had to evacuate, Saunders said.

He said the evacuation was probably

prompted by a last minute show of power before the cease fire. He anticipates the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) will request more funds and personnel to reopen rural work if the cease fire holds.

"It will be relief for the missionaries," he said. Missionaries have sometimes had to travel in armed convoys. The cease fire promises to restore freedom of movement and re-

Harwell Retained As Georgia Baptist Editor

ATLANTA (BP) — The executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention has affirmed its intention to retain Jack U. Harwell as editor of "The Christian Index," the convention's news journal.

The action follows failure at the recent annual meeting of the convention in Savannah by persons seeking to generate support to have Harwell fired because of his theological views. William Powell, editor of "The Southern Baptist Journal," publication of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, organized to find Southern Baptist "liberals," led the effort to fire Harwell.

Before the convention the executive committee met and voted to ask its administrative committee to meet with the board of directors of "The Christian Index" to consider charges against Harwell and bring a report back to the executive committee. The

religious freedom that has not existed for some time in rural Rhodesia.

Saunders also anticipates that missionaries will request more money for urban work because many of those who fled to the more secure cities will probably remain there. Already the mission and the Baptist Convention of Rhodesia have implemented Bold Mission Thrust by beginning work in two new townships created outside Salisbury to house the influx of people.

charges involved Harwell's interpretation of the Adam and Eve account in Genesis, written in a personal letter five years ago, not theological content of "The Christian Index" itself.

The convention in Savannah approved, by a four to one margin, a motion to "express our full confidence in the personal and professional integrity of the editor so that the executive committee in its deliberations will know the sentiment of the messengers." Messengers sustained a ruling that motions to fire Harwell were out of order.

Prayer, Witness. . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Doctrine of Salvation," which was used in church training last year. Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, urged evangelism leaders never to forget that sin is the number one problem of mankind and that Jesus Christ is the only answer.

He listed six enemies of evangelism: disobedience to the commands of Christ, disbelief, dilution, dissipation, dissension and discouragement. He warned that Southern Baptists should never "water down the message to accommodate the hearer," and said energy can be spent on many things other than evangelism, making "good the enemy of the best because we have too many irons in the fire."

Rogers also warned against dissension in the denomination, saying he would not compromise his beliefs but should never hurt a Christian brother. "We can disagree, but we should never hurt one another," he said.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, told evangelism leaders: "Last year the state papers were filled with the reasons baptisms were down. Are you going to care as much this year when they are up a little?"

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, added: "While the statistics show an increase this year, South-

ern Baptists should ever be mindful of the task before us. The slight increase should not lull us into a false sense of security."

"There's a sense of urgency about the need for evangelism at home or abroad. Winning the lost should be — must be — the number one priority of every Southern Baptist."

WMU Adds New Staffers

Beverly Sutton has been named director of the field services department of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, Birmingham, Ala. She was promoted to the position after serving four years as consultant for the Acteens missions education program for girls in grades 7-12. Miss Sutton will be replaced in the Acteens job by Marti Solomon, who has been minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Kilgore, Texas.

Miss Solomon is a native of Arkansas who grew up in Vicksburg, Miss. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She was minister of youth and activities at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. She was listed in Outstanding Young Women of America in 1978.

Clarke Exceeds Lottie Moon Goal

In the traditional lighting of the star ceremony on the Clarke College campus, Dec. 13, students, faculty and friends gathered in front of the girls' dormitory to determine how close they had come to their Lottie Moon goal of \$1979.80.

They had not come close. They had exceeded the goal by over \$500, giving \$2,503. Mrs. Evelyn Williams, director of financial aid and sponsor of the BYW at Clarke, said, "It was unbelievable how people kept giving. Even after the goal had been reached, students kept giving more and more."

DOM Meet To Feature Weatherford

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will speak to the Mississippi directors of missions during their meeting in Jackson, Jan. 10.

The directors will meet at the Baptist Building for their quarterly meeting sponsored by the

Cooperative Missions department of the convention board.

Miss Weatherford is a native of House, Miss., moving to Florida at age six months. She is a graduate of Florida State University and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

She has church youth work and has held several positions in WMU work including executive secretary of the Florida WMU.

Foundation Theology

(Continued from Page 1)

Lord) or through a testamentary trust (remembering the Lord's work in one's will). An increasing number of Mississippi Baptists are seizing on the privilege of serving the Lord on the earth after they have departed this life by drawing a Christian Will.

For many years now, Southern Baptists have designated the month of January as "Make Your Will Month." Obviously, it is immediately evident that a will may be drawn at any time the individual desires. The selection of a specific month to promote this Christian concept simply seeks to insure that we be reminded to consciously strive to make the trail of our influence a positive one for the glory of God.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation takes the position that one who is interested in the ministry of this agency has been redeemed. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation). Old things are passed away; behold, all things are new." (II Corinthians 5:17) This new creature in Christ will become interested in fulfilling his purpose for this new life, namely, good works. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us." (Ephesians 2:10)

From Getting

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation believes that this new creature in Christ will not only change his lifestyle from getting to giving but he will want to continue to give just because he does have a new nature. Therefore, when he learns that at the current rate of yield (8.22%), his initial gift of whatever amount will be distributed in earned income to his chosen Christian enterprise (Christian Education, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, State Missions, Baptist Children's Village, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, etc.) in slightly over 12 years, with the original gift remaining intact to reproduce again, he begins to grasp the heartbeat of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation ministry. Jesus' parable of the talents speaks to this issue. (Matthew 25:14-30)

The aim or goal of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is to aid the individual in translating the call of redemption into Christian action. As the love of God flows through the Christian on its way to another person, one must be careful to keep the channel free from any hindrance. (Romans 5:5) Salvation is not free to be possessed and placed on reserve and marked for emergency only. The trustees and staff of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation agree with T. A. Kantonen's observation that "A Christian is a channel, not a reservoir; a conductor, not a receptacle. Our strength does not come from our tugging and straining. It does not depend on our hoarding what little we have but on our making the right adjustment to God so that his power can flow through us."

God can make it fine without our gifts, but He has self imposed His dependency upon our gifts in order that we may develop Christian character. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as an agency through which one's gifts may be channeled not only for the development of Christian

character in this life, but also for the extension after this life of the Kingdom of God.

"Love that is hoarded moulds at last, Until we know some day; The only things we ever keep, Are the things we give away."

And kindness that is never used, But hoarded all along; Will slowly harden till it is As hard as any stone.

It is the things we always hold, That we shall lose someday. The only things we ever keep, Are the things we give away." (George Salstrand, The Grace of Giving, pp. 17-18)

Birthday

(Continued from Page 1)

of the THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDER (now titled "Outreach"). In 1920 the department of Sunday School administration was created and directed by Flake.

Flake's five points for building a Sunday School have lived through the years. (1) Discover the possibilities (2) Enlarge the organization (3) Find a place for the people (4) Train officers and teachers and, (5) Go after the prospects.

The RAIKES AND FLAKE COMMEMORATION on May 22, 1980 will recognize some outstanding Mississippi Sunday School officers and teachers. Long time participants and attenders will be recognized.

A special commemorative souvenir coin and anniversary program/brochure will be given at the May 22 meeting. Grady Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, will bring a special message.

Musicians

For Missions

(Continued from Page 1)

adult groups were placed for volunteer missions activities through the special mission ministries department, representing more than 34,000 people. The goal for next year is 45,000 volunteers.

Hammonds stressed that large or small groups can be effective, giving small churches equal opportunity to become involved in a Bold Mission Thrust activity, the SBC effort to reach the world with the gospel by the year 2000. Hammonds' department will help place groups according to their financial resources and talents.

CLASSIFIED

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Here Is One Energy Adviser Who Must Be Taking Own Advice

By Tim Nicholas

By day, R. L. Majers is an energy adviser for the TVA. Nights, he somehow still has enough energy to serve as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Tupelo.

Majers is one of hundreds of men in Southern Baptist life who are bivocational pastors. These men work a secular trade in addition to taking care of the pastoral needs of a local church. Many would say they were called by God specifically to do bivocational work. R. L. Majers is one of that number.

He felt his call into the ministry while in the Navy on a ship headed for Australia, and preached his first sermon in Wesleyan Methodist Church in Brisbane.

After the service, he went to Mississippi College and graduated with a major in Bible. Then he went to Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He and his wife Mary Beth bought their groceries from the 25 cents each she made cutting students' hair. Now she operates Majers' Beauty Shop out of their home in Nettleton.

At first he was a full time pastor—Beaver Baptist Church for a year, then more than ten years at First Baptist Church, Nettleton.

While at the Nettleton church, he took a correspondence course in heating and air conditioning. "His curiosity leads him into it," said his wife.



R. L. and Mary Beth Majers

From 1963-65 he was minister of education and music at First Church, Kingston, Tenn. and then for two years was pastor of Zion Church in Pontotoc County.

At that point he took a job as instructor in heating and air conditioning for the Tupelo Center of Itawamba Junior College. He only quit preaching for three months, though. This was the point where he went bivocational. He became pastor of Old Union Church in Shannon where he stayed seven and a half years, and then pastor of Center Hill Church in Pontotoc County.

Majers became pastor of Temple in Tupelo in November of 1976. It was in March of 1979 that he moved to the Tennessee Valley Authority job.

"I'm convinced this is what the Lord

wants me to do—to give leadership to churches that were not able to provide for it full time," said Majers. His wife is the volunteer music director. One member stokes the furnace early on Sundays and another member cleans the church every week—all are volunteer laborers.

Majers feels he is able to get to know the congregation better than a fulltime pastor would. He said that as a "working" pastor, he has better rapport.

The work of the pastor comes at night and on weekends. Hospital visitation and visits to the sick who are at home are about all the visitation he and his wife have time for. But that, according to Majers will take him to every member's home within a year. He said he puts sermons together "piecemeal."

In addition to the pastoral work, he and his wife, and daughter, Regina, who is a student at Mississippi State, sing and play in a gospel group called the Templeaires. The seven-member group visits nursing homes and churches. "We've learned some of the older songs," said Mary Beth, "like 'An Empty Mansion.'"

She added, "We dodge all-night sings." Temple Church is in South Tupelo in a community that is in upheaval. The city has bought a lot of land, according to Majers and has been moving out a number of houses for a new street.

When Majers first visited Temple in view of a call, there were 10 adults in worship and Sunday School. Today the church averages a Sunday School attendance in the 40s and about double that for worship.

He recently ordained three new deacons and between October and the first part of December, 13 persons joined the church, including two for baptism.

Though the church has been giving to missions for the past three years, this is the first time on a regular basis, said Majers. They give 10 percent to the Cooperative Program and two percent to associational missions. He said he feels associational missions "is a part of the church program."

This is also the first time the church

has supported the pastor through the annuity program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Growth has been slow, and with setbacks of members moving away. But they keep replacing themselves and the church continues to grow.

Majers has an ambition in his pastorate that has come to fruition in two of them. Old Union and Center Hill both now support full-time pastors.

Look out, Temple, your pastor may be working himself out of a part-time job.

Court Won't Hear Religion Bias Case

WASHINGTON (BP)—A divided U. S. Supreme Court announced it will not hear a First Amendment challenge to a provision of California's constitution forbidding employment discrimination on the basis of religion.

The Ducor Union School District had asked the high court to decide if the non-discrimination provision of the state constitution amounted to an establishment of religion in violation of the federal Constitution's ban.

Three high court justices, William J. Brennan Jr., Harry A. Blackmun, and John Paul Stevens, indicated they had voted to schedule the case for oral argument. But four justices must agree to hear a case before it can be scheduled.

The California case involves a long struggle by public school teacher Thomas E. Byars to force the school district to provide him with non-paid leave to observe certain holidays of his religion, the Worldwide Church of God.

The controversial sect, headed by Herbert W. Armstrong, requires worship on Saturdays and designates at least 13 days during the calendar year as religious holidays to be observed by practicing church members.

Thursday, January 3, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion

Akron, Ohio (EP)—Nearly 11 tons of meat canned by Mennonites in Kansas and Oklahoma and \$5,000 worth of vegetable seeds and medicines will be sent to Cambodia by the Mennonite Central Committee. The 520 cartons of meat valued at \$54,600, and the medicines collected in California will mainly go to hospitals in Cambodia. American Friends Service Committee will arrange the flight to Phnom Penh.

Geneva (EP)—The World Council of Churches is shipping two new shipments of rice to Cambodia—1,500 tons valued at \$327,000 to Phnom Penh and 1,100 tons valued at \$235,000 to the port of Kompong Som.

Bangkok, Thailand (EP)—Larry Ward, president of Food for the Hungry International, declared here today that he expects the refugee situation in Thailand "to get much worse before it gets better." Dr. Ward said that "the gargantuan refugee problem here in Thailand involved nearly a million people—the 246,000 now in the camps, plus as many as 700,000 more headed this way from Cambodia." Food for the Hungry International is now providing special nutritional feeding for over 40,000 daily in eight camps.

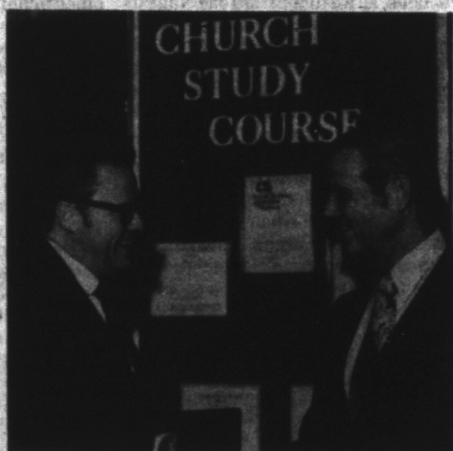
Monrovia, Calif. (EP)—World Vision International is committed to send 17 medical teams of about 100 persons to refugee camps on the Cambodia-Thailand border in the "critical months" ahead and has started a nationwide recruiting effort.

Washington (BP)—The U. S. Supreme Court will decide if a privately-owned shopping center is off-limits to individuals or groups collecting signatures for a petition. The high court will review a decision last March by the California Supreme Court that a group of Jewish students who sought to collect signatures among patrons at a San Jose shopping center had their constitutional rights violated when the center's owner had them removed by security guards.

Boston (EP)—Boston Municipal Court Judge John A. Pino said the Monty Python film, "Life of Brian," does not violate the three-century-old Massachusetts blasphemy law. "Depending on one's attitude or views, the film may be boring or, as some have claimed, humorous and funny, but it could not be the basis for issuance of a criminal complaint under the blasphemy law," the judge said recently after viewing the film.

Mississippi Rates' High

Roy Edgemon (left), director of the church training department at the Sunday School Board, hands Kermit King an award for the largest percentage of churches reporting church training during 1977-78. King is Mississippi's church training director.



More than 1,500 professions of faith were made during an eight-day layman-led crusade in Peru. Crowds were so large that one home in which a congregation met had to remove a wall to accommodate those attending. Another church moved into a new building the day the crusade began, and discovered the first day that there was standing room only. Ninety laymen from five churches in Lima, Piura, and Peru's northern mountain area participated in the crusade.

No Place Like Home For Volunteer; It's Been Years Since She's Been Home

By Jennifer Anderson

MEXICO CITY—Put Edith Swann in a crowd or just stand her by herself and never in a million years would you guess that she's lived in the jungles of Bolivia or wheels her way along the streets of Mexico City. And she's done

it all since about her 60th birthday.

For 36 years she lived and worked in Mars Hill, N.C., as the bursar of Mars Hill College. "That term is kind of antiquated now," she says, "but that's what I was—the bursar, taking care of student accounts, financial and gov-

ernment programs.

Miss Swann—everyone calls her Edith—says she "always" read Southern Baptist missions magazines. "I knew all about volunteer work" she relates. In 1972 Edith decided it was time to know more. She's hardly been back home since.

Her first missions stint, with Wycliffe Bible Translators, led her to the jungles of Bolivia to be in charge of that group's finance office. She calmly tells of taking a riverboat and single-engine Cessna to get to and from her Bolivian home during her 22-month stay.

On return to the United States, she worked as payroll clerk with Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. But it was not long until the Foreign Mission Board gave her the option of six months in Kenya or a year in Mexico.

"I didn't want to give up my job for just six months, so I came here to Mexico City in October 1977," she relates over a cup of cappuccino, a favorite Mexican form of espresso coffee.

As an extended service volunteer, she went as an administrative secretary. "But that didn't really keep me busy enough." So when the need for help with the mission treasury came up she snapped up the work. "And since I've started doing both jobs, I've had plenty to do. I've mainly just stayed in the office and have been as busy as I can be."

Coming into another culture is no easy trick, but Edith has tackled it with all she's got. Like bringing her own car, for instance. "I'd never been in Mexico before and the first night we went to choir practice the traffic was so thick that we had to stick a hand out of the car, smile, talk to the people and ask to be permitted into other lanes. By the time we got there I decided to find another church closer to me!"

But as the days passed, Edith was determined to get out and drive—"I had to; otherwise I couldn't go anywhere!" Missionaries have been amazed at her adaptability. And despite her previous decision, Edith regularly drives to—you guessed it—that same church. She joined it.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

C	A	L	E	R	A	R	M	S			
P	A	R	O	L	E	I	M	A	G	E	S
P	L	S	A	L	T	A	R	E	A		
E	L	I	S	H	A	W	H	E	L	M	S
S	E	R	E	M	A	A	S	A	T	I	
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E	L	T	E	A	I	T	S	E	N		
R	E	S	E	E	P	N	E	E	R	N	
R	E	D	S								

"The Lord knows the thoughts of men; that they are vanity" (Psalm 94:11).

After Hurricane David

(Continued from Page 1)

first at the Red Cross headquarters, and for ten days we handled the communications into and off the island for missionaries as well as Red Cross, government and relief agencies. Later, as the government and Red Cross were able to restore telephone lines, we moved to one of the missionary residences and provided communications for them to the Foreign Mission Board and to the island of Barbados as they made arrangements for building materials and supplies as well as food to be brought in. We also put these missionaries in direct communication with their families in the States.

The generator we took in provided lights for one missionary residence where several families were staying. Fortunately, we had taken enough tools and supplies to repair several things for them, such as their washing machine, and they were able to wash clothes for the first time since the hurricane.

Dick and I stayed several days longer than we had anticipated, at the request of the missionaries. While we were there one volunteer group from Texas came in and built ten houses in the village of Boetica, where the Foreign Mission Board had made a commitment to the Dominican Government to rebuild 80 houses. This little village, where missionary Fred Walker serves as pastor, had only seven buildings still standing after the hurricane. The first week of December we went in with another group from Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, and they built 10 more houses. In January and February, additional groups will go from Mississippi to build 60 houses.

Even as the missionaries thanked God in their prayer for the opportunity of service, rather than complain about personal problems, the members of the little Baptist church in Boetica met to worship, and in their prayers thanked God for their blessings. I looked around as I walked through the community that afternoon as if to ask, "What blessings?" for they had so little. It made me realize that they value their spiritual blessings far more than they value material things.

It will be years before Dominica is

able to rebuild and recover from the hurricane. It is my prayer that Christian people will continue to pray, give and go help during these years of reconstruction. The needs are great, and our Lord said, "Inasmuch as you have

done it unto one of the least of these... you have done it unto Me."

James E. Smith is executive director of development for Agricultural Missions Foundation, Limited, P. O. Box 1, Tupelo, Miss. 38801.



Missionary Fred Walker looks at one of the seven buildings which were still standing in Boetica, Dominica after Hurricane David. The front and roof of this particular building had been blown off and the owner had propped the sides up with water pipe.



Dick Stafford, Greenwood, talks with missionaries in the living room of the Don Snell house which was destroyed during the hurricane. Nancy Snell, left, was in the living room with members of her family when the roof blew off and the ceiling fell in.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

A New Year, A New Decade . . .

A Closer Identity With The Lord

We have entered into a new year, and we have entered a new decade. We as Christians are convinced that the most important consideration of this new year and of this new decade should be a positive testimony to the world of the impact that God has made in our lives through His Holy Spirit in witnessing of His son, Jesus.

Before there can be any sort of witness given of the impact, there must have been the impact itself.

We have only two decades in which to accomplish our goal of witnessing to

the world by the end of the century. We are now in the first few days of the first of those two decades. Very possibly, the pattern for what we do for the remainder of this decade will be established during these opening days.

One would wonder if Christianity could survive if it depended on the efforts of most of us. Of course, there are always those who understand the gravity of the situation and who seek wisdom, courage, and inspiration from the Lord in order to carry on His work on earth. Borne on their shoulders,

the work moves forward.

This new year, this new decade would be a profitable time for those of the rest of us to go before the Lord with our own plea for faith and dedication to service. As we look about us, we feel that those who are the most dedicated are the most blessed. The expectation of blessings, however, is not a proper motivation for seeking the guidance to be able to serve in a dedicated way. The motive is to be able to be a blessing to others. This we must do in the name of the Lord.

A new year and a new decade are not much different from an old year and an old decade unless we use that calendar milepost to cause us to seek a closer identity with the Lord.

May it be so for all of us.

And may this be a year and a decade that will find the Lord's work surging forward with a greater intensity than ever before and to such a degree that international terrorism and crime in our own streets will pale in comparison.

It begins on bended knees.

Don't mix church and state . . .

Religion Is For People, Not Governments

Events of the past few weeks have forced all of us to give thought to our beliefs concerning the interweaving of religion and government.

Uppermost on our minds has been the detention of 50 United States citizens in the U.S. Embassy compound at Tehran, Iran. This is a highly extreme situation, but it shows what can happen when partisan religious convictions are allowed to spill over into the conducting of the affairs of the state. The Shi'ite Moslem students who started that affair, and the government that condoned and aided in its perpetuation, claimed to base their actions on religious convictions. As long as their activities are condoned under the umbrella of their religion, there is no limit to what a person or government will do.

We seek to avoid this through our belief that the powers of the church and of the state must be kept separate. That is not to say that those operating the powers of the state should not be religious. Far from it. We would hope

that they would be motivated by religious convictions. The laws of our state, however, would serve as guidelines for activities in behalf of the state; and an agent for the state acting in behalf of the state would not be free to seek to force his particular religious convictions on those about him. Only when he is acting in behalf of his religion should he seek to influence others to accept his convictions on religion.

This goes for every level of government from the Presidency of the United States to the smallest precinct office and the local public school officials.

There was a time when we could safely cloak our activities of state in a Christian perspective and feel we were violating the religious convictions of no one. At the same time we were not doing well with our witnessing, and our nation became less and less Christian oriented. Now the atheists and those of several non-Christian religions have risen up to claim their rights under the

doctrine of church-state separation. We can do nothing, sad as the situation is, but afford them those rights. This is the basis for the foundation of our nation.

The prospect of what this nation could become because of those conditions is frightening. The solution, however, is not to seek to force everyone to accept a Baptist position of religious convictions but to present such a witness to our world that everyone would find that position attractive. Then religion would flow naturally from the individual out rather than our seeking from the outside to mold others into our religious perspectives.

This outflow of religion should include prayer for those who must lead our nation and make decisions for it. It is not often that a country will face such emotion-wrenching situations as the one in Iran or such as the proposed Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II. The country is divided on Salt II. Baptists are divided, as is witnessed by letters and other material coming into

the office of the Baptist Record.

Salt II is more than a political question. It is a moral question because of the awesome destruction that is possible. It is a question of survival that citizens of all walks of life must ponder.

Our nation's affairs are not to be decided on a religious basis, for who could determine what religious conviction would be used as the base? We would like for it to be a Christian base, but the Jew would not like that. We cannot even expect our leaders to make decisions from a religious perspective, for it is possible for a non-religious person to be elected.

We cannot mix church and state. We cannot help but be grateful, however, for people who get into government who have religious convictions, and stand by them, which would be compatible with ours. Our involvement comes in much prayer for our governmental representatives and in communications with them to tell them of our positions and convictions.

only direct descendant from those early churches that started in Palestine, begun by Christ and continued by Paul and others.

I wish to refer Brother Rogers to a booklet written by Joe T. Odle some years ago that brings this out very plainly. If Christ did not start the Baptist church, then which one did he start, Mormons, Catholic, Jim Jones or some other cult?

The Protestant churches were started in protest of Catholic cruelty during the dark ages.

H. O. Pritchard
Union Church, MS
A Baptist (No Protestant please)

No matter what our views on church history might be, the world has pretty well categorized us into Catholics, Protestants, and Jews. Protestant, of course, regardless of whatever else it may mean, is a way of distinguishing those who are not Catholic or Jew. While there may have been, and no doubt were, groups with beliefs akin to ours from the time of Christ, the people who are modern Baptists seem to have gotten their start in the early 1600's with a man named John Smith. How much the Reformation had to do with his efforts might make an interesting study. His activities were a part of the following century. It was with the Reformation, however, that the custom began of referring to all who were not Catholics or Jews as Protestants. We will continue to be called Protestants. Some will accept it. Some won't. — Editor

Dealing With Stress

Editor:

Ministers are exposed to an occupational hazard called STRESS. It comes with the calling. There is no way to escape it. But there is something ministers can do about it. Allow me to share what the ministers did in Adams Association.

For the November Minister's Conference, the program committee planned to deal with the problem of stress in the life of ministers. The committee decided to call in a resource person to deal with this subject.

Dr. Clifton Perkins of the Church Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board was contacted, and he gladly accepted the invitation to attend the Ministers Conference to deal with the matter of stress. Dr. Perkins' presentation was from the practical point of view. He discussed the definition of stress; how it affects the minister, and what the minister could do about it. The ministers attending the conference were very appreciative of this information. There was a time of discussion in order for ministers to raise personal points of concern in dealing with stress.

I would like to recommend this presentation to other associational conferences. I feel that it would be beneficial

Letters To The Editor

number — RM 2493. On August 1, 1975, the FCC unanimously denied this petition and refused to propose such a rule.

In spite of this very clear ruling, many people still have not received the word that the petition has been denied. Also, the name of Madelyn Murray O'Hair has become linked with this petition although she has never filed any such petition with the FCC.

I need your help to spread the word among your members, parishioners and friends that there is no petition at the FCC to ban religious programming and that the FCC is not attempting to take religious broadcasting off the air. Over the past few years, more than \$1 million in postage has been spent by citizens to write to the FCC about this non-existent petition. I hope you will help us.

Sincerely,
Charles D. Ferris
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Word from the Past

Editor:

At the recent annual meeting of the Attala Baptist Association, our moderator shared with our people highlights of a copy of the 1879 Minutes of what was at that time the Kosciusko Baptist Association. We found this to be an interesting document.

Among other reports, there is a report of what was called the Committee on Documents. Because of the current relevance of what the brethren wrote 100 years ago, I am sending a copy of the full committee report which is as follows:

Your Committee on Documents respectfully submit the following: That while we recognize the worth of many Religious journals advocating the cause of our Master, according to our faith; that, too with zeal and ability; and while we admit that they are worthy of our patronage, yet we cannot fail to recommend The Baptist Record as the best adapted for the promotion of our Zion in Mississippi. Through its columns we learn the progress of the churches in our State. We ascertain the advancement of our Sabbath-schools, and consult with each other upon every subject that appertains to our denominational interest in the State of Mississippi, our special field of labor. We pay two dollars for similar papers, some of which are not calculated to improve our morals, while we neglect to patronize those that would greatly assist us in the performing of our Christian duties.

It is a manifest error among Baptists that they do not read enough Baptist literature. Able productions deduced from the Scriptures by our ablest ministers, on subjects involving the cardinal principles of our faith, printed in tract form, and so cheap that all who wish may be

informed. We do not wish to be understood as advising the reading of any religious literature to the exclusion of the Bible, but we do mean to say that we can much better understand it by reading it in connection with the comments of able and good men. Pastors ought to impress this subject on the churches entrusted to their charge.

We continue to recommend the International Lessons, as published in "Kind Words." Macon, Ga.

D. T. Gupton, Chairman.
Received and adopted.

I thought you would like to know that Attala County Baptists liked the Baptist Record a century ago — and they still do!

W. Levon Moore
Director of Missions
Attala Association

Our appreciation is due Director of Missions Levon Moore of Attala Association for sending this section of the 1879 minutes of that association. The Baptist Record has a noble heritage. We pray the present staff is carrying on the same tradition. — Editor

Mistake in Letter

Dear Sir:

I was disappointed in your publication of my recent letter in that you left part of it out.

I said in my letter that I was opposed to the signing of Salt Treaty II, just as I was opposed to Salt Treaty I, which has allowed us to become inferior to the Russians. As you put it in your paper it sounds as if I believe that the Salt II Treaty has already been signed. I know that Salt II Treaty has not been signed yet.

Yours truly,
Ruth M. Morris
Meridian

You're correct. Your letter was hand-written and had to be typed in preparation for going to the printer. In the process the transcriptionist's eyes inadvertently skipped from one "treaty" to the other, thus leaving out the fact that it was Salt I that had been signed and not Salt II. In addition to placing a bit of a burden on secretaries, which they do not mind, the hand-written letter does pose dangers in deciphering writing or making mistakes in transcriptions. We will continue to accept them, however, for many do not have access to typewriters. — Editor

Who are Protestants?

Editor:

On the front page of the Dec. 6 paper there is an article by the convention president, Adrian Rogers, pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. He called Baptists the largest Protestant denomination in the nation. I must disagree with him on that statement. The Baptist church is the

At The Beginning Of The New Year

GOD being my witness and helper —
Resolved: to regularly attend the church worship services.

GOD being my witness and helper —
Resolved: to give more of my time in prayer and communion with Him.

GOD being my witness and helper —
Resolved: to support my church with my tithes and offerings.

GOD being my witness and helper —
Resolved: to let God speak to me daily through His Holy Scriptures.

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

When The Scenery Changes . . .

Usually we think of our talents as qualities that do not change, all our lives. Yet as the scenery of our lives changes, as we move from one stage to another, ought we not to look inside and see if we have other gifts?

If one medium of expression is lost, then we may find it in ourselves to use another. Jacqueline du Pre, musician, was deprived by illness of her ability to play the cello. No longer able to pick up the instrument to make it speak for her, she found that she could bring words to life as she had once brought notes to life; she began to teach cello lessons, on television. Gwenda Bond, in the London Baptist Times, said that Jacqueline du Pre has "a use of language that is sometimes as delicate and sometimes as vivid as any passage of a concerto. . . . When other great musicians might storm or dominate, she suggests, she elicits, she encourages, she smiles."

Economic necessity can force us to use talents we never guessed we had. For instance, Enrique Bervio came to Hattiesburg from Nicaragua at age 17. His parents, foreseeing revolution, trusted him to bring a good deal of cash to pay for several sessions at USM. In the fighting, the textile factory where Enrique's father worked was bombed, so that left Mr. Bervio without a job. Too, after the revolution he could not draw his money out of his bank, so he could not send more to his son.

Faced with the need to raise money to finish his university studies in America, the resourceful young Enrique discovered he had the ability to be a painter or a carpenter, or almost anything he needed to be. He is willing to tackle any job.

Not long before he came to the States he had professed faith in Christ and was baptized. Now he lives with a Hattiesburg family and is active in the 38th Avenue Baptist Church, where he enrolled in the Help Others Practice English class. His ingenuity, his warm friendliness, his maturity impress me.

Sometimes age changes the circumstances of our lives. Pyracantha berries decorating my Christmastime mantel remind me of Mrs. Rosalie Appleby, who gave them to me. Mrs. Appleby, a brilliant woman of many gifts, retired after serving nearly four decades as a missionary in Brazil. Now in her 80's, she no longer writes

books, but she continues to minister through letters in which she encloses tracts, some by her own pen, some by other writers. Her gift for hospitality is a special one. When I visit her in Canton, she always serves refreshments. In her conversation I find spiritual refreshment. I hope she knows how much her prayers and encouragement have meant to me. When I leave her house I always feel I've been wrapped in a cloak of love.

When illness caused John Wade Landrum to relinquish use of his gift for preaching, he found another way to give of himself. With a computer programmed electric typewriter he sends out from 1019 Tanglewood, Clinton, 1500 letters a month to retirees in nursing homes. In "The Least of These" ministry, he writes to ones who get little or no other mail. Nursing homes' activities directors have told him, "I wish you could see their faces light up when your letters arrive."

Read the Uniform Sunday School lesson commentary on page 6. The writer, Joseph Nimrod Triplett, is a man who has captured my heart. From 1947 to 1950, when I was a student at Judson College, he was my pastor. Siliam Church at Marion, Alabama, must have been one of his first pastorate, because I remember that his children, Rod and Temple, were quite young when he and his family would come to the college for special dinners. Though I probably never told him, his sermons meant a great deal to me then, at a time when I was making some important life decisions.

Twelve years ago Brother Triplett became minister of pastoral care at First Church, Jackson, and began to use his preaching gift less and his counseling, praying, and writing gifts more. This was good, for his infectious smile and his caring heart have offered solace to many who faced crisis. Since he has been in Jackson I have continued to cherish his friendship.

Last fall he learned he has cancer, but he has permitted the Lord to use even his suffering. His gifts have not been stifled, but rather intensified. In a short prayer or in two paragraphs he says more than most can say in ten times as many words. How much I appreciate his courageous spirit, his triumphant faith!

cial for ministers to be able to recognize and cope with this problem.

Talmadge Smith
Minister's Conference President
Adams Association

Thanks To Baptists

Editor:

This is a letter of thanks to the Southern Baptists in Mississippi who have sacrificed their money and made it possible for me and countless others to attend Seminary at a minimal cost.

Since coming to Seminary, I have become aware of the amount of money involved in sending one person to seminary — approximately \$6,000 per year. Without the support of the Southern Baptist Convention and local Southern Baptist churches, many of us would be unable to attend.

I thank God for your support and I hope you'll remember all seminary students in your prayers as we study to learn how to better minister to the needs of God's people.

Beverly Chambers
New Orleans Seminary

Surely Mississippi Baptists are thankful for those young people of our state who answer God's call to enter into special service in His name. — Editor

The Greatest Church

Editor:

I bow my knee before God and say thank you our loving heavenly Father for sending Dr. Bill Causey to lead Mississippi Baptists in the coming year. And every preacher in this state who knows first hand of the abuse and mistreatment put on them by some of our churches should say "praise God

for a leader like Dr. Causey."

It took a great deal of moral courage to take the stand that he took concerning problem churches and the treatment given their pastors and their family. To take this stand was not the most popular thing to do.

There can be no doubt that some of the things that go on in some of our churches must smell in the nostrils of God. God the Holy Spirit surely spoke to his servant Bill Causey, to speak forth in boldness — truths that have too long been passed over or ignored. Dr. Causey knows the problems at the grass roots level.

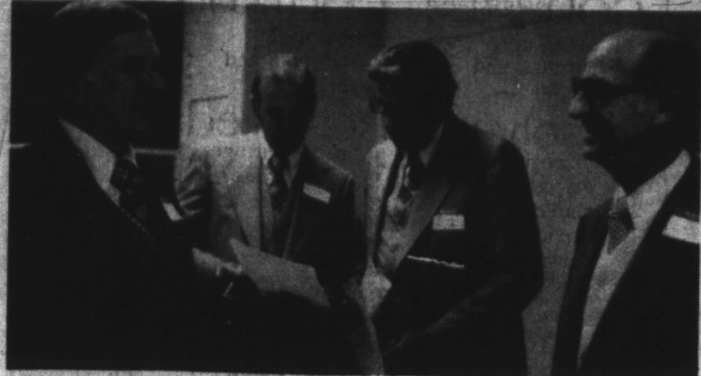
Somewhat I cannot feel that God penalizes a man when he calls him to become a preacher of the gospel. I do not believe the Scripture in any way teaches that a pastor of a church is really something less than a person.

My prayers have been answered that God has raised up a great, courageous, and fearless leader who recognizes and realizes the plain and simple truth and that he will endeavor to do all he can to try and improve the situation. May his tribe increase! Many more of God's men really needed this kind of a spiritual lift at the convention.

Lest I should be misunderstood, may I assure the readers that I have been pastor of the Edwards Baptist Church for the past seven years, and the longer I serve her the sweeter she grows. I truly wish for every burdened and abused pastor in this state that he might experience the sweet fellowship that I enjoy in a small-town church. There is not a single doubt in my mind but that I am pastor of the greatest church in this state.

D. W. Green, Pastor
Edwards Baptist Church

Names In The News . . .



Discussing plans for the "Blueprint For Progress Campaign" at Clarke College are (from left) A.C. Johnson, president of Clarke; Allen B. Parnell, director of development; J. Ray Grissett, chairman of the Former Trustees-Minister's Division; Gordon Sansing, Master of Ceremonies at the Trustee-Former Trustee Campaign Banquet. The "Blueprint For Progress Campaign" is helping to provide financial support for the Mississippi Baptist Junior College.

Mike and Debbie Williams, missionaries to Honduras since 1976, resigned from missionary service Nov. 30. They were stationed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where he served as a general evangelist.

Jane Weathersby Newell of 236 North Church St., Florence, has been included in the 1979 edition of *Outstanding Young Women of America*. Mrs. Newell is an office secretary in the Department of Cooperative Missions, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson.



JAMES EDWARD PATTON, II, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Patton of Columbus, has been chosen to receive the highest scholarship award available to a freshman at Mississippi College. The T. M. Hederman, III Memorial Scholarship. Patton is an honor graduate of Caldwell High School, where he was a member of the band, editor of the school newspaper, and President of the National Honor Society. Since enrolling at Mississippi College, he has been selected as a member of the marching band and the Concert Choir. He is a church music major, with emphasis in voice. His home church is Fairview Baptist, Columbus. Lewis Nobles, right, president of MC, congratulates Patton.



Mrs. Allie Lee Wharton, left, has been presented the Advanced Education Diploma from Seminary Extension. It took Mrs. Wharton four years and 32 courses to complete her work on the diploma. The presentation was made in a morning worship service at First Church, Pass Christian, where Mrs. Wharton is a long time member. The presentation was made by her pastor, Richard Bradley, right.

Lyn Covington of Bowie, Md., became assistant editor of the *Maryland Baptist*, newspaper of the Maryland Baptist Convention, Dec. 17. Ms. Covington, 26, who will work under the direction of editor Larry E. High, is a journalism graduate of Tift College, a Baptist school in Forsyth, Ga., and earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Clay Corvin has been named Vice President for Business Affairs by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees at New Orleans Seminary. He is Audit and Small Business Services Partner with Charles E. Reed and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, Port Arthur, Tex. Corvin is from Birmingham, Ala., and a graduate of the University of Alabama. Corvin enrolled at New Orleans Seminary in 1976. For a year and a half he was a Master of Divinity student, working part-time in the Business Office with Carl McLemore, Vice President for Business Affairs, who retired Jan. 1, 1980.

Just For The Record . . .



The Becoming Class of the Oakland Church, Corinth, had a special banquet guests Acie and Marlyn Ford. Marlyn, who was blind for 13 years, shared her experience as a blind person, climaxed by God's healing her one night while she and her husband prayed. Marlyn has shared her testimony on numerous occasions, including the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. She is author of the book "These Blind Eyes Now See." Her husband, Acie, is pastor of the Boulevard Church in Memphis, Tenn. Left to right are: Tommy Vinson, pastor, Oakland Church; Dora Spohr, president of the Becoming Class; Marlyn Ford; Acie Ford; and Mary Oates, teacher of the Becoming Class.

GAs from Second Church, Indianapolis went to Care Inn in that city Dec. 9 to sing Christmas carols. Girls participating were Leslie Baker, Shannon Fikes, Candy Boyles, Mary Anne Cooper, Pam Johnson, Sharon Doshier, Pam Walker, Cindy Steelman, Karen Steelman, and Susan Boyer. Melody Bigbee played the piano. Adults with the girls were Mrs. Sandra Boyer, Mrs. Delores Boyles, and Mrs. Genevieve Farish. Special guests from Eastwood Church on this excursion were Leslie Davis, Tiffany Miller, Michelle Peoples, Mrs. John Miller, Sr. and Mrs. Joyce Davis. Billy Joe Beckett is the new pastor of Second Church.

Mt. Zion Church, Rankin County, observed its 20th anniversary Dec. 2. (The church was organized Dec. 6, 1959.) Nick Spring, pastor, brought the morning message. Dinner was served in the Family Life Center completed only a few weeks ago.

In the afternoon the history of the church was read. Charter members were recognized; most of them gave testimonies. Paul May, student at Mississippi College, who went to the church a month ago as minister of music, directed the congregational singing.

Richmond, Va. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board assigned new personnel to Zimbabwe Rhodesia in November for the first time since the guerrilla murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. in June 1978. One-year volunteers Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Justice, a retired couple from Portland, Ore., are scheduled to leave around the first of the year for Gwelo.



Women, left to right: Karen Stricklin, Evelyn Lynchard, Jan Linder, Carla Clark, Kim Coward, Carolyn Carpenter, Jackie Moore. Men, left to right: Billy Horton, Ryan Miley, Joe Edwards, Ricky Kelly.

"Trumpet Sound" Ready to Sing

Trumpet Sound, a singing group of eleven university students, is a ministry of the Baptist Student Union of Delta State University. Organized in 1973, Trumpet Sound has as its primary purpose the communicating of the gospel through the medium of music. They use piano accompaniment as well as taped accompaniment of hymns and contemporary gospel songs.

Trumpet Sound has presented concerts for Sunday worship services, Wednesday evening services, youth rallies and banquets throughout north

Mississippi. With the beginning of the second semester in January, 1980, the group will be available for programs. Members this year are Carolyn Carpenter from Senatobia, Kim Coward from Greenwood, Joe Edwards from Hollandale, Billy Horton from Clarksdale, Ricky Kelly from Aberdeen, Jan Linder from Batesville, Evelyn Lynchard from Greenville, Ryan Miley from Carthage, Jackie Moore from Greenville, and Karen Stricklin from Yazoo City. Carla Clark from Clarksdale is accompanist and Brenda Breland from Cleveland is director.



Five Acteens at First Long Beach, were recognized as Queens. Above, l to r: Melinda Dana escorted by Daniel Meese; Jill Clifford escorted by Todd Cooper; Dawn Cooper escorted by Mark Franklin; Ellis Ann Pike escorted by Allen Bowen, and Debbie Miller escorted by Ray Meese. Crown bearers are Paige McMillin, Melissa Schwitters, Becky Williams, Lisa Wilson and Ashley Kelly. Gladys Dolk is Acteens director.

Upon This Rock



Day Star Baptist Mission in Rankin, soon to become Day Star Baptist Church, recently conducted a Church Building Fund Campaign to underwrite plans for their first permanent structure. Under the direction of Pastor Dale Holloway and Campaign Director B. F. Duncan, three goals were established: Victory — \$30,000, Challenge — \$35,000, and Hallelujah — \$40,000.

Through the efforts of the campaign leaders, the ninety-one members were led to make three-year commitments slightly in excess of the Hallelujah

goal of \$40,000. Construction of the new sanctuary is already in progress.

Steering committee members for the campaign were B. F. Duncan, Director; Philip Gilmore, Special Gifts; Mrs. Anna Heaney, Canvass; Mrs. Louise Duncan, Promotion; Mrs. Iva Rigby, Building Banquet; Mrs. Glata Buchs, Report Snack; Paul Rigby, Follow-up; Steve Tadlock, Secretary.

Consultant for the campaign was Clarence H. Cutrell of the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion.

Staff Changes



the holidays, from Olive Branch. He and his wife have served churches in North Mississippi for the past 24 years.

Joe T. Odle, former editor of the Baptist Record, now retired, has accepted a position on the staff of First Church, Jackson. He will be directing the work of the Family Zone Ministry, a program of direct ministry to the entire church membership through zone ministers.

Chandice Johnson, pastor of Byhalia Church for seven years, has resigned and has accepted a call to become pastor of Temple Church, Fargo, North Dakota. Byhalia Church gave a reception in honor of the Johnsons on Sunday, Nov. 25, and presented to them a silver tea service and gift certificate.

Tom Littlejohn, pastor of Chesterville Church, Tupelo, has resigned, effective Jan. 6, to enter Southwestern Seminary. He has been pastor at Chesterville since February 1975. The church's 1975 world mission giving was \$25.58; its 1976-79 total mission gifts were \$1,964.94. The people are now giving 8% through the Cooperative Program and 2% to associational missions, as well as supporting special emphases.

Littlejohn's seminary address is: Box 22533, Fort Worth, Texas 76122.

Lord's Day Alliance Offers A New Film

The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States is offering a new film for sale or for rent. It is "The Lord's Day," and it focuses on worship, rest, family culture, and humanitarian service, according to the executive director, James P. Wesberry. Wesberry was pastor of Morningside Baptist Church in Atlanta for 31 years.

The Lord's Day Alliance headquarters are in the Baptist Center at 2930 Flowers Road, South, Atlanta, Ga. 30341.

Harmon Moore Retires Early In Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP) — E. Harmon Moore, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, has announced his retirement effective Jan. 1, 1981.

Following Moore's surprise announcement to the convention's executive board, Garland Morrison, a pastor from Marion, Ind., moved that R. V. Haygood, associate executive director and director of missions, be named executive director-elect immediately, foregoing normal search committee procedures. The motion was delayed until the board's meeting, Feb. 26, 1980.

Meanwhile, Glen Flowers, executive board chairman, has invited pastors and church members to suggest possibilities, including names, addresses and biographical data.

Moore, who will be 65 in May 1981, could have remained until age 70 under current retirement guidelines in Indiana.

The convention's chief executive since its formation in 1958, Moore told the group he was looking forward to not being a "bi-vocational" preacher anymore but a fulltime preacher again.

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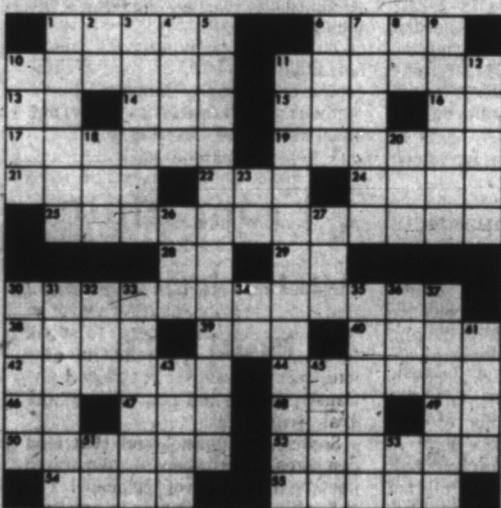
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50 Sow again
52 "which — — repentance" (Luke 15)
54 Cincinnati team
55 Japanese shoes

DOWN

1 "and — Jesus" (John 18:33)
2 Given to Lot's children (Deut. 2:9)
3 Deprivations
4 Valley (1 Sam. 17:2)
5 "and — — men" (Matt. 28)
6 Oriental nurse
7 Most unusual
8 1/1000 gram: abbr.
9 "— — be religious" (Jan. 1:26)
10 American poet: poss.
11 "And when — —" (Matt. 14)
12 Black buck
13 Head of the house (1 Chron. 7:7)
14 People of Burma
15 Article
16 Sentence part: abbr.
17 Rene's friend
18 "set in —" (1 Cor. 11:34)
19 Antenna
20 Swine breed
21 Joined
22 Beside Bethel (Josh. 12:9)
23 Start
24 Swine canton
25 Consider them (Luke 12:34)
26 Kind of weave
27 Letters
28 To — — precisely
29 Direction: abbr.
30 Kenaf

ACROSS
1 He received Hebron (Judg. 1:30)
2 "are the everlasting —" (Deut. 33)
3 Word of honor
4 They shall not stand up (Isa. 27:9)
5 Olean: abbr.
6 American Indian
7 Feathers' companion
8 Each: abbr.
9 He prayed (2 Ki. 6:17)
10 Engulfed
11 Withered
12 Barnyard sound
13 Suture: var.
14 "the — of God" (Col. 1)
15 Exclamation
16 Letter
17 "the appearing —" (2 Tim. 1)
18 Bridle part
19 "unto men once to —" (Heb. 9)
20 Russian mountains
21 Choose
22 "see his — country" (Jer. 22)
23 "elohe-Israel" (Gen. 35:30)
24 Kind of party
25 Pronoun: poss.
26 Printer's measure

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Clark Street, "Friendliest Church," Experts To Meet Some Astonishing Goals In 1980

By Anne McWilliams

"The friendliest church in Union County." That's what members and visitors call Clark Street, New Albany.

Most of the 70 members of the church are under 50; over half are under 18. Four months ago the church was constituted, after being a mission for ten years.

Since C. C. Ard came as first full-time pastor in January of 1979, there have been 39 baptisms. Ard says he believes the congregation can meet several astonishing goals by Sept. 30, 1980: baptize 75 (a ratio of more than 1 to 1); discover 300 prospects; enroll 100 new members in Sunday School; train 25 in Win schools; lead 50 to a personal commitment of life; add 50 by letter.

Guy Culver, Union County director of missions, said that discovering 300 prospects is possible. In a city of around 10,000 there are six Baptist churches, two Methodist churches, two Presbyterian, one Church of Christ, and two Pentecostals. Yet a survey showed only 2,000 enrolled in Sunday School in all these churches together.

Clark Street Church is in a transi-

tional area, downtown, across the street from a manufacturing plant. Most of the adult members work in the factories of the city. Many live near the church; others drive from as far away as six miles, because they like the church's friendly spirit.

"We reach people through Sunday School and by visitation and personal witnessing," the pastor said. "Nearly everybody in the church visits and invites prospective members." Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons are regular visitation times.

Several professions of faith resulted from two Win schools this year. Eighteen came for baptism during an April revival, and seven during a fall revival in which Leon Emery was the evangelist.

The pastor challenged the men and the women to start new Sunday School classes. The men enlisted six new members, and organized a class for them. The women enlisted seven for a new class.

Ard, who began his pastorate in New Albany January 22, a Monday, communicates well with the Clark Street people. He was born in Pontotoc County. His former pastorates include

Carson Ridge at Ethel and Clear Creek, Marshall County. While showing his love and concern he at the same time knows how to call a spade a spade, and doesn't hesitate to do that. For instance, he and a deacon cut down "the smoking tree" where men sometimes gathered outside to smoke.

Since January the Sunday School enrollment has increased from 46 to 98 and the Church Training enrollment from 20 to 82. Sunday School averages 75 present, and Church Training 70. RAs, GAs, and Brotherhood are functioning.

Young People

Clark Street has only six senior citizens. Usually at least 40 young people under 18 are present. Choirs for youth and children are directed by Shannon Burns, minister of music, but there is no adult choir.

Burns, who is self-employed, has been part-time minister of music at the church only a little over a month. He said he plans to organize an adult choir soon. A men's choir, just organized, presented special music Sunday night, Dec. 16.

A separate Sunday School assembly for youth was begun this year, which the young people plan and carry out.

Everybody Has A Job

Every young person — and in fact every church member from 14 up — has a job in the church. Pastor Ard said, "I have firm conviction about this. If a person has a job, and does it, he or she won't be complaining about what somebody else is doing."

In 1969, First Church, New Albany under leadership of Rete Evans, pastor, established the Clark Street Mission. The Brotherhood took a survey of the area. Two weeks later 21 people met in a house at 206 Clark Street for Bible study. In January, 1970, J. C. Mitchell, then director of missions for Union County, delivered the sermon for the first preaching service. In March, 1970, Gale Eddings was called

as first pastor.

First Church erected a building on Clark Street, dedicated Sept. 12, 1971. When the new church was constituted Aug. 26, 1979, First Church gave it the building and property, debt-free.

Frank Lay, Ingomar pastor, preached at the constitution service. Thomas Littlejohn, deacon at First Church, presented the church charter. Bobby Moore, chairman of the missions committee at First Church, was also on program, as well as Jimmy Dye, chairman of trustees, Clark Street.

Pastors called out from Clark Street have included Bobby Cobb, pastor of Martin Church, New Albany, and Mike Smith, pastor, Doty's Chapel.

Of the original members from First Church who helped to organize the mission, only Doris and Gilbert Daniel are still at Clark Street. She teaches Sunday School, Youth I, ages 12-14. He teaches Sunday School adults and is Church Training director. Their son Bill, 17, directs the music for the youth assembly and is assistant Sunday School director. Mike Daniel, 15, is a morning usher and his brother Tim, 13, is night usher.



Doris Daniel

"The fact that all the young people have jobs encourages their regular attendance," Mrs. Daniel said. "The young people are active in witnessing. They have a good background in Bible, because we have some really good Bible teachers. The young people know how to use their Bibles." Tremendous interest in memorizing Bible passages has been built up.

Mrs. Milton McDonald, the church clerk, said, "Five years we have been going to Clark Street. My husband was a church member, but not a Christian. This year he and my two sons, now 11 and 12, have been baptized. I owe a lot to this church because it has really helped me to have a Christian home. And really, the church itself is just like one big family."



Guy Culver, left, talks with C. C. Ard, pastor. Culver, director of missions, has served several times as interim pastor at Clark Street.



C. C. and Clydean Ard are pictured with a group of young people at Clark Street, "a young people's church." Mrs. Ard teaches Adult women and leads the GAs and Asteens.

Mrs. Bobby Smith, leader of a Church Training class, and her husband and all their children have been baptized at Clark Street. "I can't express how much this means to us," she said.

have a small son. They drive seven miles to Clark Street. Formerly organist at Locust Grove, she is now pianist at Clark Street.

Good Stewards

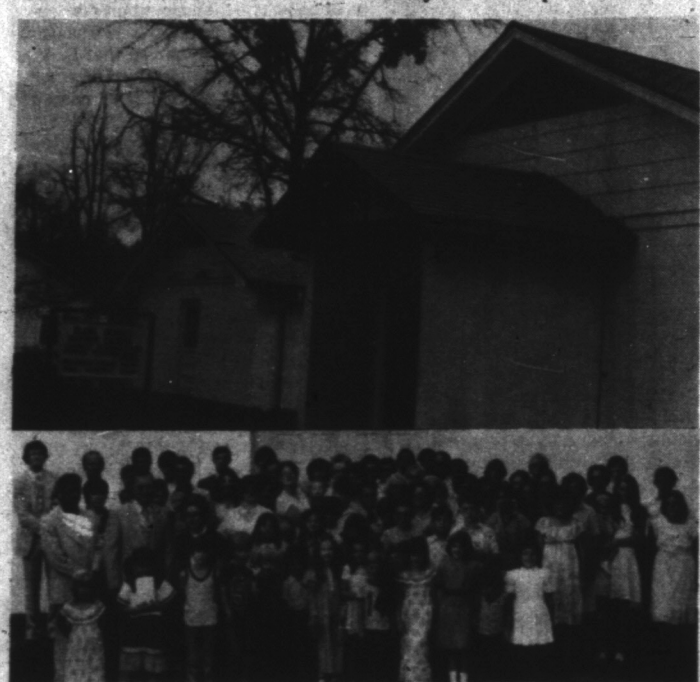
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Bridges are among those who responded to invitations from members to visit the church. Both were baptized there. "Since I was already a church member, it was hard for me to confess before others that until then I had not been a Christian, had not been born again," she said. "As I was trying to make a decision I wondered what others would think. Then I realized that in this matter it was of myself and not of others that I must think."

Pastor Ard said, "We must give the Lord credit for everything that has happened here. Members of this church simply have an awareness of what God has done for them and are grateful to Him. They are good stewards. Many tithe and are unusual givers." They give 10 per cent of the current budget to the Cooperative Program and 5% for associational missions.

Guy Culver said the church is unique because of the love and concern the members have for each other.

Prayer Calendar For MKs

Jan. 7—Katherine Davis (Hong Kong), Mississippi College



Clark Street Church, New Albany, was constituted in August, 1979, after being a mission of First Church of that city for ten years. Some remodeling and painting have been done. Plans are being made to build a nursery in the spring. A fund for a van has been started.



Jimmy Dye, chairman of the trustees spoke at the constitution service.

Uniform Lesson

Crisis Caused By Death

By Joseph N. Triplett
Minister of Pastoral Care
First Church, Jackson
John 11:1-44

The first sign, or miracle, was performed at a wedding, the beginning of a home in the land of Galilee. The last sign was done at Bethany of Judea; the occasion was a death. Extremes both, and Jesus is the master of both.

Last year it was my privilege to watch a believer move from denial to acceptance. The husband knew he was dying, talked with me about it. He hurt because his wife refused to accept as fact his approaching death. The Holy Spirit moved upon her mind. She assured her husband that, as she had walked with him through many experiences, now she would be by his side to the very brink of the river, when he would cross into glory of God's presence.

I. The Appeal To Jesus

Evidently Lazarus was critically ill. Mary and Martha sent the message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick" (v. 3).

1. God's time table is not fixed by our desires. He acts when the greatest glory will be given the Father, when the kingdom will be enlarged.

2. Disciples' response to His decision to go.

(1) Your enemies tried to stone thee; are you going again?

(2) Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (v. 16).

Forever this convinces me that Thomas was not one to be condemned because of honest doubt. Rather, he was a loyal disciple who only asked for proof.

3. Martha's response (verses 20-22):

(1) "If thou hadst been here." Was she rebuking Jesus or expressing with certainty her faith in Jesus?

(2) Positive: "God will give thee whatsoever thou wilt ask."

II. Jesus Response To The Appeal

1. His assertion is for eternity: "I am the life: he that believeth in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (v. 25).

2. Martha's assertion of faith: "I believe that thou art the Christ." Now she calls Mary, her sister.

3. Mary's faith is like Martha's: "If Jesus may not reverse the cause of grief, such as death, but He assures us of His presence, His grace, His strength."

III. The Miracle

1. Jesus identifies Himself with the sufferer. Call to mind the beatitude, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

2. Deity defeats the devil (verses 38-40).

Lazarus was raised from the dead, he died again.

Jesus came alive, is alive forevermore. The messengers at the grave of Jesus said to the women, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

To His family, Jesus says, "If thou

wilt believe, thou shalt see the glory of God."

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil — Joaquim Paula Rosa has been named executive director of the Brazilian Baptist Publishing Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. Rosa has been executive secretary of the coordinating board of the Baptist convention of the state of Rio de Janeiro. He succeeds Southern Baptist missionary H. Victor Davis.

Devotional

Have You Placed God's Call On Hold?

By Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Several weeks ago I received a long distance call from one of the presidential aides at the White House. In spite of being engaged in a business conference, I took the call. None of us places a caller from the White House on hold. Are we as responsive to the calls that come from God?

God is calling Baptists to get under the load of the Bold Mission Thrust. The call seems to be unusually urgent. One can hear it in the angry cries of an Iranian mob or the silence of a refugee camp where starving Cambodians are too weak to weep. God seems to be saying the world is now ready for what Baptists have to offer. Will we give immediate response in 1980 or will we delay?

Someone has said: "Delay is the deadliest form of denial." One can always find reasons for delay — reasons that appear to be valid.

I will go, when —
I will give, after —
I will obey, but first —

We live in urgent days, and our time of opportunity to share the gospel, share the good things of this world, may be very short. We need to live as people whose lives might be suddenly cut off. We need to learn, and we should learn from the scriptures if we could come to them, the lessons that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn learned through his experience of The Gulag Archipelago.

What about the main thing in life, all its riddles? If you want, I'll spell it out for you right now. Do not pursue what is illusory — property and position: All that is gained at the expense of your nerves decade after decade, and is confiscated one fell night. Live with a steady superiority over life — Don't be afraid of misfortune and do not yearn after happiness.

Our envy of others devours us most of all. Rub your eyes and purify your heart — and prize above all else in the world those who love you and wish you well.

Let us respond to God's call to evangelize the world now and see what else God will entrust to us.

Near the hold button on the instrument of our call, these words would be appropriate:

If not I, who?
If not here, where?
If not now, when?

Life and Work Lesson

God Cares

By Tommy Tutor, Pastor
First, Holly Springs
John 3:16, Matthew 9:35-38;
10:23-31; 11:2-6

There is a present danger of letting the message of God's Word become commonplace, of just simply taking this message for granted. The result of this is failure to realize the tender loving care of God as expressed in His Word. God expressed His love, concern, and salvation in the giving of His Son. These things continue to be expressed through the written Word, and this Word lives even as the Word lived in human flesh.

I. Jesus Expressed God's Care In Coming (John 3:16).

The care of God is seen in that the origin and initiative in all salvation lies with God. God sent His Son to save men because He loves them. This verse also tells us that the mainspring of God's being is love. God is the Father who cannot be happy until His wandering children have come home. God does not smash men into submission; He yearns over them and woos them into love. The width of God's love is noted. He loves the world.

Augustine noted, "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." Therefore, God's love is personal. Several other truths are revealed in this verse.

First, God's love was expressed "while we were yet sinners." This implies that God felt a responsibility toward sinners in that by creation men were His children.

Second, the attitude of God toward sin is revealed. He did not spare even His Son because of the hopelessness of men in sin. This was the only way to conquer and overcome sin.

Third, God intended men to live and not die. This was His purpose in creating man. Thus, He could restore man to everlasting life by removing the consequences of sin. God manifests His care and concern for people.

II. Jesus Expressed God's Care By Revealing The Needs of People (Matt. 9:35-38).

The motive for Jesus' death on the cross is expressed in these verses. While engaged in a circuit of Galilee, He was moved with compassion at the spiritual destitution of the people. They were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd.

Note the truths revealed about the

needs of people. First, people need to be loved even in their sin. This is where Jesus loved them. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Care and concern expressed in love is a powerful tool to lead sinners to believe in Jesus.

Second, Jesus saw these people through the eyes of God. He saw them as creation made in the image of God. They were eternal beings and as such were destined to separation from God if they died in their sin.

Third, Jesus saw that the lost needed a witness. A witness is one who has given his life to a cause. Also, he is one who shares what he knows from experience. People in sin need witnesses to convince them that they need and can be delivered from the sin which enslaves them.

III. Jesus Expressed That People are of Infinite Value (Matt. 10:23-31).

A sense of worth brings new hope to people. Jesus uses two examples to illustrate the infinite value of people. Luke 12:6, notes that five sparrows are bought for two farthings. In buying four sparrows, a fifth one was given. Thus the small value of sparrows is noted; yet God is aware when one falls.

And, second, God has numbered even the hairs of our heads. The depth of God's care is being emphasized. People, made in God's image, eternal beings, are of much more value to God. Jesus noted that if a man gained the whole world and lost his own soul, he was a loser. Therefore, people are of great value to God. People have the capacity to receive and share God's love with him and with other people.

People by creation are the children of God. Therefore, God feels a responsibility toward them. He saw that forgiveness and restoration to recreated (born again) children of God was of such great value to people that the giving of His Son was necessary. This is the value of people to God is revealed.

IV. Jesus Expressed God's Care By Meeting Human Needs (Matt. 11:2-6).

John the Baptist's imprisonment posed some unanswered questions for him. Herod Antipas of Galilee had visited his brother in Rome. While there he had seduced his brother's wife. He brought her back to Galilee, dismissed his wife, and married his brother's wife. John had strongly denounced

this. Herod had imprisoned him in the fortress of Machaerus, east of the Dead Sea.

While in prison John began to reflect on his encounter with Jesus. Things had not gone as he had planned. Was Jesus the Messiah? It seemed that Jesus had forgotten him. No visits or letters of encouragement had been received from Jesus. Yet the disciples of John were given the only evidence of Christ's messiahship that the needs of people were being met.

Often our plans and thinking are not the same as God's. Care needs to be given not to become offended. Jesus noted that happy was the man who accepted God's way of ministry. God's method is not by irresistible force, but unanswered love (Barclay, p. 4).

7 From State Earn Degrees At Southern

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Seven students from Mississippi received degrees from Southern Seminary during commencement exercises Dec. 21 in the seminary's Alumni Chapel.

The School of Theology awarded the Master of Divinity degree to Ann Michele Rogers Brigham and William L. Brigham, Collins; James Cecil Prather, Booneville; and Susan Hill Puckett, Columbus.

Julia Ann McIlwain, Southaven, received the Master of Religious Education degree offered by the School of Religious Education.

The School of Church Music awarded the Master of Church Music degree to Allen Lawson Cade, Starkville; and Barrett Lee Carter, Booneville.

Ben M. Elrod, president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, delivered the commencement address.

Theme for the 14th Baptist World Congress, meeting in Toronto July 8-13, 1980, will be "Celebrating Christ's Presence Through the Spirit," based on John 16:13.